

## **TOWN OF HOUNSFIELD TOWN BOARD MEETING**

### **October 10, 2012**

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Supervisor Timothy Scee opened a Public Hearing at 7 pm, at the Town Hall, 18774 Co. Rt. 66, for the purpose of hearing comments on proposed Local Law #3 of 2012 which will override the tax levy limit of 2% established in General Municipal Law #3-c. There were no comments from the public and C'man Battista made a motion to close the Public Hearing and C'man Lee 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Immediately following the Public Hearing the regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Hounsfield was called to order by Supervisor Scee.

Board Members present were: Supervisor Scee, Councilman Stephen Lee, Councilman Todd Farrington, Councilman Vincent Battista, and Councilman Richard Young.

C'man Battista made a motion and C'man Lee 2<sup>nd</sup> to issue a Negative Declaration with the SEQR form for Local Law #3 of 2012. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Battista for Resolution #12-34 to adopt Local Law #3 of 2012, which will override the tax levy limit of 2% established in General Municipal Law #3-c. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Farrington to approve the minutes of the Town Board meeting held on 9/12/12. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Correspondence received by the Supervisor included, a notice from the North Country Spay and Neuter mobile clinic with services they offer, a notice from Association of Towns that a seminar will be held in Syracuse, a letter from Legislature Blankenbush about a NYSERTA program on green rebates, and two inquiries from CPA firms.

At this time the Supervisor's Report for September was read by the Clerk to the Supervisor: Total receipts \$1,903,785.26, Total disbursements \$208,099.28, Total checking account balance \$1,762,896.34, and Total investments \$651,384.37.

A motion was made by C'man Farrington and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C 'man Lee to accept the Supervisor's Report. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Abstract #10, vouchers #572-645 was presented: General Fund A \$16,605.19, General Fund B \$633.83, Lakeside Cemetery Fund \$1,773.81, Highway Fund A \$17,532.80, Highway Fund B \$34,880.14, Water District 2 \$20,866.01, Water District 1 \$1,586.04, Water District 4 \$2,788.46, Water District 3 \$17,347.14, Water District 5 Capital Fund \$1,610,937.80, Abstract Total \$1,724,951.22.

C'man Farrington asked about a bill for oil and chipper rental for Ridge Road and the Highway Superintendent responded that it was for the sealer on the top of the pavement. C'man Farrington also commented on voucher #639 which is a bill from the Village of Sackets Harbor

for water for Water District 5. It seems that the Town was charged for all water that went through the meter in the vault at district 5 instead of accounting for water that already went through District 2's meter and water the Town purchased from Watertown for district 5. This bill should reflect only water for flushing which was monitored by the Bernier Carr project manager.

A motion was made by C'man Farrington and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Young to pull out voucher #639 for \$15,172.45 from the Village of Sackets Harbor for water (District 2) for further review before the 2013 Budget work session tomorrow at 7pm, and approve payment of all other vouchers in Abstract #10 at this time. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Farrington for Resolution #12-35 to approve budget transfers. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Peter Bryant, Economic Development Director, was present and explained to the Board that Samaritan would like to open a family care clinic in a building in Madison Barracks that will need renovation and they are asking the Village and the Town to subsidize part of the rent of \$2265 per month. It was Mr. Bryant's understanding that Sackets Harbor is considering entering in a contract with Samaritan for services. The Board held a discussion and C'man Battista added that there are many questions and he needs more information. Supervisor Scee reported that this Board supports the concept of a family care clinic coming here, but not if it means subsidizing a business with taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Bryant also gave a brief Economic Development report.

C'man Lee reported that he has attended an Economic Development meeting, and the Water Dist. 5 construction meeting. In regard to a letter the Board received from Don DiMonda about a preliminary EDU charge for his property in Water Dist. 5, C'man Lee reported that he will review the EDU list and address the request for a change from Mr. DiMonda. The Clerk to the Supervisor reported that the preliminary EDU list was sent to the County Real Property director to create the new water district, but it was not meant for public knowledge yet, and there is always a public hearing before the Board approves the EDU charges for water districts each year.

Ron Robbins was present to discuss an agreement with the Town of Hounsfield for a hookup to a new barn at North Harbor Dairy that indicates he is responsible for legal and engineering costs and operation and maintenance of the 4" lateral when he already has paid a hookup fee of

\$1200.

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C'man Lee explained that the Town hookup fee is for the tap in the main water line, a curb stop, and a hookup to the meter and Mr. Robbins said he was already paying for all of that to be done but he still wants to sign the agreement to go forward with the project.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Young to authorize Supervisor Scee to sign an agreement with Ron Robbins, North Harbor Dairy, regarding the water hookup to the new barn at this location in Water District 3. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

C'man Young reported that he also attended the Economic Development Committee meeting. He attended the Hay Memorial Library Board meeting, gave a report and reported from the minutes of the East Hounsfield Library meeting which was the same night. Another union negotiation session was held and that is moving along very well.

C'man Battista gave a Fire Department update and reported that several tests were completed by the department. There were eight fire calls and eight ambulance calls. The Sulphur Springs Ladies Auxiliary will hold a chicken barbeque this Saturday and a fowl play event is planned for November 16<sup>th</sup> at the fire station in the village.

C'man Farrington reported that he attended a Recreation Commission meeting and the budget is being finalized

C'man Farrington opened the sealed bids received for V plows for the two new pickup trucks: Beam Mack Sales, Watertown, NY bid \$9,126.20 on two Western 81/2' plows, Whitesboro Spring & Alignment Corp., Whitesboro, NY bid \$8,700 on two Fisher plows, and Route 11 Truck & Equipment Sales & Service, Canton, NY bid \$13,400 on two 91/2' Hiniker plows.

These bids will be reviewed by the Highway Superintendent.

The Highway Superintendent gave a work report for September.

The Town Clerk gave a collections report for the month of September. She also reported that she attended a Lakeside Cemetery Committee meeting and a Water Committee meeting. She also reported that she and Supervisor Scee attended a demonstration given by the County Real Property director and a representative of Business Automation Services, Inc. (via the phone). This demonstration showed how property taxes can be collected online with credit cards, debit cards and e checks. This program is a component of the BAS tax software that the collectors all use and there is no cost to the Towns or County. It is funded by the convenience fees paid by those taxpayers who choose to pay their taxes online.

A motion was made by C'man Battista and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Lee to authorize the Clerk/Collector to go forward in setting up the capability for residents to pay their Town and County taxes online

with a credit card, debit card, or e check. All voted aye and the motion was carried.  
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A report for September was given by the Zoning Officer.

Corey Reed from Bernier Carr, engineering firm, was present to give an update of Water District 5. He reported that the project is about 85% completed and about 38 homes that have been connected to the water at this time.

Under unfinished business, C'man Lee mentioned that he has attended Comprehensive Plan Committee meetings and there is a survey available on the Town web site, at the Clerk's office and other sites around the Town and residents are encouraged to fill one out and turn them in either electronically or to the Town Clerk's office.

New Business: Supervisor Scee reported that each member of this Board received a packet of bills and a letter from Attorney Whelpley to notify them that the Town is responsible for a total of \$160,000 in legal bills for the Galloo Island Wind Farm project. Supervisor Scee has notified Upstate Power and the Town attorney.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Farrington to reappoint Ed Mereand to the Board of Assessment Review for a five year term ending 9/30/17. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

The Clerk to the Supervisor asked the Board to discuss payment of the new dump truck that has arrived at Tracey Road Equipment. She reported that even though the Board set up a two year payment on the truck, there is enough funds in the budget to pay the entire amount now to save on interest charges.

After Board discussion, a motion was made by C'man Battista and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Lee to pay Tracey Road Equipment the entire amount for the new dump truck (\$118,333) now instead of a period of two years. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Battista and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Lee to amend abstract #10 and add a voucher #646 to Tracey Road Equipment for \$118,333 for payment in full on the new dump truck. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

At this time the floor was opened for public comments and Beverly Sterling Affinati was present to thank the Highway Superintendent, Bruce Alcombrack for work he and the Town crew has done at the Muskalonge Cemetery. Comments were made about the proposed Samaritan Family Health Care Clinic. Ron Robbins suggested that the Town look at grants available to have the Highway Dept. install a dry hydrant at the pond on his property for fire protection in that area of the Town. Also a comment was made that it sounded like a duplication of fees for the water hook up at Robbins farm and since the Water Superintendent is absent from this meeting, C'man Lee will have him explain the fees for this case at the next

meeting.

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A discussion was held on having the 2013 Budget Public Hearing before the November Town Board meeting.

At 8:36 pm a motion was made by C'man Lee and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Farrington to go into executive session on union negotiations. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

The Board returned from executive session and the meeting was then adjourned.

Submitted by,

Diane M. Nier  
Town Clerk